

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 /077 W

----- 080277

R 050726Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2944

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10913

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, UR, US, EMIN

SUBJ: FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN SOVIET ALUMINUM PROJECT

USDOC FOR BEWT/DOWNEY AND BEWT/TDAD/PLANAGAN

REF: A. MOSCOW 10557

B. MOSCOW 8444

1. DURING MEETING IN LONDON JULY 28, BRUCE N. WILSON, MANAGING DIRECTOR, KAISER TRADING (UK) LTD., TOLD COMATT THAT SOVIETS HAD INVITED WEST GERMANY'S KLOECKNER-HUMBOLDT-DEUTZ (KHD) TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL FOR ALUMINUM SMELTER OF BLACK SEA-KRASNOYARSK ALUMINUM PROJECT. WHILE AWARE OF SOVIET-KAISER NEGOTIATIONS, KHD ASKED IF KAISER WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PRESENTING JOINT PROPOSAL UTILIZING KAISER TECHNOLOGY, AS KHD HAD ALREADY CONSTRUCTED SMELTER FOR KAISER IN WEST GERMANY. KAISER HAS NOT YET GIVEN DEFINITE RESPONSE.

2. WILSON ALSO MENTIONED THAT GEORGES JOVAN HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN REPLACED AS PRESIDENT OF PECHINEY. KAISER THEREFORE
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WONDERED WHETHER JOVAN'S DEPARTURE, ASSUMING REPORT CORRECT,

WOULD HAVE AFFECTED PECHINEY'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIETS,
GIVEN JOVAN'S CLOSE INVOLVEMENT WITH PROJECT TO DATE.

3. DURING JULY 1 SOVIET RECEPTION FOR VISITING US SENATORIAL
DELEGATION, SST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN GVISHIANI TOLD COMATT THAT
SCST FELT JUNE VISIT BY EDGAR KAISER HAD BEEN VERY POORLY
ARRANGED BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND THAT HE (GVISHIANI)
HAD SO INFORMED DEPUTY MINISTER SUSHKOV.

4. COMMENT - GVISHIANI'S COMMENT IS FURTHER INDICATION OF
SCST'S UNHAPPINESS WITH MFT'S HANDLING OF ALUMINUM PROJECT
NEGOTIATIONS (SEE MOSCOW 2136). AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, IT
APPEARS THAT MFT CONTROLS SOVIET POLICY ON THIS PROJECT.
APPROACH TO KHD, COMING ON TOP OF SOVIETS' CONVERSATIONS WITH
KAISER AND ALCOA, REINFORCES OUR SUSPICION THAT MFT IS CASTING
OUT FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS TO USE AS BARGAINING TOOLS FOR
PECHINEY NEGOTIATIONS. WE HOPE TO EXPLORE SOVIET INTENTIONS
IN EARLY MEETINGS AT SCST AND MINISTRIES OF NON-FERROUS
METALLURGY AND FOREIGN TRADE. BEFORE THAT TIME WE WOULD
APPRECIATE REPORT ON ANY RECENT CONTACTS BETWEEN KAISER AND
SOVIETS AND ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY PARIS CAN DEVELOP ON STATUS
OF SOVIET-PECHINEY NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
PARA 2 ABOVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALUMINUM, MINING INDUSTRY, NEGOTIATIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW10913
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750269-0745
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750881/aaaacubj.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOSCOW 10557
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN SOVIET ALUMINUM PROJECT USDOC FOR BEWT/DOWNEY AND BEWT/TDAD/PLANAGAN
TAGS: ETRD, EMIN, EEWT, UR, US, GE, KAISER, KLOECKNER-HUMBOLDT-DEUTZ
To: STATE PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006